

**CLAIMS**

1. A throttle valve for an inlet of an internal combustion piston engine comprising an aperture adapted to be variably opened and closed between a first fully opened configuration and a second near closed configuration, characterised in that said aperture is variably opened and closed by a plurality of coplanar plates mounted about the periphery of said aperture and movable towards the central region of the aperture.
2. A throttle valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein at said first fully opened configuration and said second near closed configuration, the central region of the aperture is unobstructed to axial fluid flow and wherein said aperture is substantially circular.
3. A throttle valve as claimed in claims 1 wherein each of said plates is pivotally mounted.
4. A throttle valve as claimed in claims 1 wherein the overall length of said throttle is substantially small compared to the diameter of said aperture.
5. A throttle valve as claimed in claims 1 wherein each said plate is beak shaped having a concave edge and a convex edge meeting at a tip.
6. A throttle valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said concave and convex edges are substantially equal in radius of curvature.
7. A throttle valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said concave and convex edges are substantially equal in radius of curvature to that of said aperture.
8. A throttle valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein movement of said plurality of substantially coplanar plates is actuated by an actuator ring to move said plates simultaneously.
9. A throttle valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said throttle valve is used for either an air or an air/fuel mix.
10. A throttle valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said throttle valve may be used on a rotary valve internal combustion piston engine.